MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is the Director of Agriculture competent to conduct such investigations with the help of subordinates?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): In a way, he is competent.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does he possess the necessary expert knowledge?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): There are degrees of knowledge.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But is it sufficient for practical purposes?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): It will go some way. Mr. Narayana Aiyar's knowledge may not also go all the way.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikpalli*): All that I wanted to know is whether his knowledge is sufficient for practical purposes?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): Yes, to some extent.

Disposal of Complaints against Government Officers.

23. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): (*a*) Are not the Government aware, from representations in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council and other sources, that there is a wide-spread feeling among the people that, under the present circumstances, superior Government officers are too sympathetic towards their subordinate officers in the latter's misdeeds and derelictions of duty towards the public to be able to deal justly with the departmental complaints of the people against misdeeds and corruption on the part of high grade Government officers?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased, in view of the fact referred to in part (*a*), to make arrangements for associating some representatives of the people also in all enquiries regarding serious complaints by the members of the public against Government officers holding appointments carrying a pay of Rs. 50 or more per mensem?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) (*a*) The Government are aware that there is some public uneasiness in the matter.

(*b*) The suggestion does not commend itself to Government.

Average Wealth of Communities.

24. **MR. X. G. LOPEZ** (*Nominated*): (*a*) Have the Government ascertained the average wealth of the different communities, including the sea-coast Christians, in the State?

(*b*) If so, will they be pleased to place on the table a comparative statement showing the same?

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MR. K NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) This question does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Recruitment of Labour.

25. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether recruiting labour for places outside the State is permitted?

(*b*) If so, are any means adopted to look after the condition of labourers of the State and safeguard their interests abroad?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that conditions of labour recruited for work in estates in the State are such as require investigation? If so, do they propose to appoint a committee to go into the matter?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*)

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) There are no special safeguards.

(*c*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not therefore arise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The answer to part (*b*) says, "There are no special safeguards." May I know from the Government whether there is any safeguard at all?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The safeguards that are available to people under the ordinary law are available to these recruits as well.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In regard to the answer to part (*c*), are the Government aware that the conditions of labour in the estates are such as do not require any investigation?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): They have no knowledge either way.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government aware whether there is any special provision made to look after the general health of the labourers in the estates?

MR. K NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No; the Government are not aware.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Do the Government think that it is desirable to have dispensaries in the several places just to protect the poor labourers in the estates?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That question does not arise from the principal interpellation of which the member has given notice.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government satisfied that the general conditions of the labourers in the estates are really safe?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have made no enquiries in the matter and they are not in possession of any definite information.

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